

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SIG-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IGA-02 EB-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 /075 W

----- 029626

R 161233Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7259

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

CINC USAFE RAMSTEIN

CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG

CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

USNMR SHAPE

CINC USNAVEUR LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 04338

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, GW

SUBJECT: CHANGES IN FOREIGN MILITARY TRAINING PROGRAM

(FMTP)

REFS: (A) STATE 051768 DTG 031747Z MAR 76

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BEGIN SUMMARY: DUE TO ITS WEALTH AND LACK OF SUITABLE ALTERNATIVES IN OTHER COUNTRIES, CHANGES IN THE COST OF US FOREIGN MILITARY TRAINING PROGRAMS ARE LIKELY TO HAVE LESS SHORT-TERM EFFECTS ON OUR RELATIONS WITH THE FRG THAN ON MOST OTHER COUNTRIES. THE LONG-RANGE EFFECT IS EXPECTED TO BE MORE SERIOUS. THANKS TO THE CLOSE CONTACT WHICH THE US HAS MAINTAINED WITH THE BUNDESWEHR SINCE IT WAS FIRST ESTABLISHED, APPROXIMATELY TEN PERCENT OF THE OFFICER CORPS HAS BEEN TRAINED IN THE US. THE REACTION OF THESE OFFICERS TO THEIR AMERICAN TRAINING HAS BEEN OVERWHELMINGLY POSITIVE. AS A RESULT, THEY ARE WELL DISPOSED TOWARDS THINGS AMERICAN, WHETHER IT BE US MILITARY EQUIPMENT, US MILITARY TACTICS OR US POSITIONS IN CONTROVERSIAL POLITICAL-MILITARY SUBJECTS. THIS VERY POWERFUL, IF SOMETIMES SUBTLE, AMERICAN INFLUENCE ON FRG MILITARY AFFAIRS -- AND THROUGH THE FRG ON EUROPEAN MILITARY AFFAIRS -- COULD EVENTUALLY BE LOST IF THE US ADOPTS POLICIES THAT DISCOURAGE THE FRG FROM CONTINUING TO SEND LARGE NUMBERS OF ITS OFFICERS TO THE US FOR TRAINING. END SUMMARY.

1. THE FOLLOWING ESTIMATES AND COMMENTS ON-IMPACT OF INCREASED COSTS IN THE FUTURE FMTP ARE KEYED TO PARA 5 REFTEL.

A. THE FMOD HAS BEEN TOLD TO EXPECT PRICE INCREASES IN FMS TRAINING. NO SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON BILATERAL RELATIONS IS EXPECTED AS LONG AS THE COSTS ARE REASONABLY RELATED TO FRG TRAINING REQUIREMENTS. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT WE NOT BECOME SO OVERZEALOUS IN ELIMINATING "HIDDEN SUBSIDIES" THAT WE BILL GERMANY FOR COSTS THAT CANNOT CLEARLY BE JUSTIFIED.

B. & C. USAF SPONSORED FLIGHT TRAINING, USA SPONSORED MISSILE TRAINING (HAWK, HERCULES, LANCE AND PERSHING SYSTEMS) AND NAVY SPONSORED GUIDED MISSILE FRIGATE TRAINING ARE CONSIDERED TO BE THE PROGRAMS OF GREATEST INTEREST TO THE FRG AND ALSO OF GREATEST BENEFIT TO THE FRG. CONFIDENTIAL

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USNMR SHAPE

CINC USNAVEUR LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 04338

FIT TO THE US NATIONAL INTEREST. THE FRG PAYS FOR THIS
TRAINING UNDER FMS CASES. FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE,
THIS FMS TRAINING IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE AT APPROX-
IMATELY CURRENT LEVELS BECAUSE THE FRG HAS NO OTHER
SOURCE OF SUCH TRAINING.

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D. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SOME PERIPHERAL USAF SUPPORT TRAINING (MEDICAL, FLYING SAFETY OFFICER AND WATER SURVIVAL) WILL BE ABANDONED BECAUSE OF PRICE INCREASES. IN ADDITION, GERMAN REQUIREMENTS FOR US ARMY ADVANCED HELICOPTER FLIGHT TRAINING MAY DECREASE SINCE THE FRG ITSELF HAS TRAINING CAPABILITIES IN THIS FIELD.

E. CURRENTLY GERMANY HAS FEW VIABLE ALTERNATIVES IN THOSE AREAS IN WHICH IT USES US FMS TRAINING. OVER A PERIOD OF YEARS, HOWEVER, ALTERNATIVES TO US FMS TRAINING COULD BE DEVELOPED EITHER NATIONALLY, WITHIN THE EUROGROUP, OR WITHIN THE IEPG. IF SUCH ALTERNATIVES WERE DEVELOPED, THEY WOULD PRESUMABLY MAINTAIN GERMAN MILITARY COMPETENCE. HOWEVER, US INFLUENCE ON THE GERMAN MILITARY WOULD CERTAINLY DECLINE. THE AMERICAN INFLUENCE WITHIN THE BUNDESWEHR WHICH RESULTS FROM TRAINING IN THE US EFFECTS SELECTION OF MATERIAL. IN ADDITION, THE AVAILABILITY OF GOOD, REASONABLY PRICED, TRAINING IN THE US IS ITSELF ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL INCENTIVES FOR PURCHASE OF US EQUIPMENT.

IN THE AREA OF ACCEPTANCE OF US DOCTRINE, PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE IS ATTACHED TO OFFICER EDUCATION PROGRAMS; I.E., THE EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE GERMAN GENERAL STAFF ACADEMY AND EQUIVALENT US SERVICE SCHOOLS AND THE ARMED FORCES STAFF COLLEGE. THESE PROGRAMS ARE CURRENTLY BEING JEOPARDIZED BY CONVERSION TO FMS BASIS ON SHORT NOTICE. THE POSSIBLE DISRUPTION OF THESE OFFICER EDUCATION PROGRAMS IS A MATTER OF CONCERN TO THE EMBASSY. (MAAG BONN DTG 081639Z MAR 76; MAAG BONN 051521Z JAN 76; MAAG BONN 081639Z MAR 76; MAAG BONN 111508Z MAR 76--NOTAL).

F. NOT APPLICABLE.
HILLENBRAND

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